

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCE-00 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 SAA-01 /058 W  
-----020261 301123Z /13

O R 301047Z JUL 78  
FM USLO RIYADH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 622  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN  
USMTM/DCR RIYADH  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

S E C R E T RIYADH 627

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, SA, YE, US  
SUBJECT: NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCES FOR F5-B'S AND HELICOPTERS  
FOR YAR AND HELICOPTERS FOR BAHRAIN

REF: (Z) STATE 187186, (B) CHUSMTM 300601Z, JULY 78

1. WE TOLD SAUDI SIDE DURING JULY 29 MEETINGS THAT INDIRECT  
PROCEDURE PROPOSED BY SAG TO SATISFY REQUIREMENT FOR NON-TRANSFER  
STATEMENT WAS NOT IN CONFORMANCE WITH U.S. LAW AND WOULD NOT  
SATISFY U.S. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

2. CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL HUMAID TOOK POSITION THAT PROBLEM  
WAS POLITICAL, RATHER THAN MILITARY AND THAT IT WOULD HAVE  
TO BE WORKED OUT AT THAT LEVEL. FROM EXCHANGES AT  
CONFERENCE TABLE AND FROM SUBSEQUENT FOLLOW-ON MEETING  
WITH GENERAL HUMAID ATTENDED BY CHUSMTM GENERAL CATHEY  
AND EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT  
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SAUDIS WERE SENSITIVE BECAUSE THEY SAW THEMSELVES PAYING FOR  
AIRCRAFT AND THEN LOSING ALL CONTROL OR EVEN ASSOCIATION  
WITH THEM. IN THEIR VIEW RELATIONSHIP AFTER PAYMENT  
IS NO LONGER TRILATERAL BUT IS BILATERAL. SAUDI ARABIA IS  
MORE OR LESS SHOVED OUT OF RELATIONSHIP AND U.S. TAKES OVER.  
THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT AIRCRAFT MIGHT EVEN BE TRANSFERRED  
WITH U.S. APPROVAL TO SOME OTHER COUNTRY THAT THEY MAY NOT

LIKE. THEY ASKED IF USG WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSULT WITH SAG BEFORE GIVING APPROVAL FOR FOURTH COUNTRY TRANSFER.

3. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM RATHER QUICKLY. FIRST SOLUTION WOULD BE TO HAVE YAR GIVE NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCES TO BOTH U.S. AND REPEAT AND SAUDI ARABIA IN ONE DOCUMENT. ADVANTAGES OF THIS ARE THAT (1) IT WOULD SOVE OUR LEGAL PROBLEM; (2) IT WOULD GIVE HIGH VISIBILITY TO SAUDI ARABIA AND ALSO PREVENT HURT FEELINGS ON THE PART OF SAUDIS AT HAVING FORKED OUT THE DOUGH BUT SEEING U.S. EXERCISING ALL THE CONTROL; (3) IT EMPHASIZES EQUALITY OF SAUDI ARABIA AND U.S. IN TRILATERAL ARRANGEMENT; AND (4) IT ASSURES USG-SAG CONSULTATION BEFORE ANY PERMISSION FOR TRANSFER IS GIVEN.

4. SECOND POSSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE TO HAVE YAR GIVEN SEPARATE NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCES TO BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND U.S., I.E. TWO DOCUMENTS, WITH NEITHER DOCUMENT MAKING REFERENCE TO THE OTHER. IT WOULD HAVE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME ADVANTAGES AS THE FIRST SOLUTION, BUT IT IS NOT AS TIDY AN ARRANGEMENT AS THE FIRST AND IT DOES NOT EMPHASIZE THE TRILATERAL NATURE OF THE ARRANGEMENT TO THE SAME DEGREE.

5. THE THIRD POSSIBLE SOLUTION IS DIRECT YAR ASSURANCES TO USG AND AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIA,  
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PROVIDING FOR U.S. AGREEMENT TO CONSULT WITH SAG PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO TRANSFER. THIS SOLUTION WOULD ASSURE USG-SAG CONSULTATION BUT WOULD NOT REQUIRE SAG APPROVAL OF TRANSFER REQUEST. IT DOES NOT PROVIDE HIGH VISIBILITY SAUDI ARABIA ALTHOUGH IT MAY SOOTHE SAUDI SENSITIVENESS ABOUT BEING LEFT OUT. IT DOES NOT EMPHASIZE SAUDI-U.S. EQUALITY IN TRILATERAL ARRANGEMENT.

6. WE RECOMMEND FIRST SOLUTION. WE ARE INSISTING ON A POSITION OF EQUALITY FOR U.S. IN TRILATERAL ARRANGEMENT, BUT HERE IS A CASE WHERE SAG PERCEIVES THAT IT IS NOT BEING ACCORDED AN EQUAL STANDING. WE THINK THIS IS PLACE WHERE WE CAN GIVE SOME COSMETICS WITHOUT ANY REAL SUBSTANCE. HOWEVER, THE SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE IS SUCH THAT IT WOULD NOT ONLY MAKE OUR DEMAND FOR EQUALITY MORE PALATABLE BUT EVEN ENHANCE THE SAUDI SENSE OF PARTICIPATION IN A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S.

7. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE IN TIME FOR AUGUST 6 MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN.  
GRANINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS, HELICOPTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978RIYADH00627  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** MARR, PCAT, SA, YE, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
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